

just 2 years ago. Throughout her career, Mary touched the lives of thousands of students, helping them to realize their potential and make their dreams a reality.

In addition to her daily professional contributions, Mary has long been a staunch advocate for teachers and education. She has worked with legislators at every level of government to ensure that their concerns and needs were heard. She was elected to serve on the Connecticut AFL-CIO Executive Board and the Greater New Haven Labor Council. But perhaps where she had the greatest impact was through her 24 year tenure as the President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses—the longest consecutive term of any president of any American Federation of Teachers Local in Connecticut. Her diligence, commitment and dedication earned her a distinguished reputation throughout Connecticut. In fact just prior to her stepping down in June of this year, Mary was honored by the Connecticut branch of the American Federation of Teachers with the prestigious Unionist of the Year Award—the highest such honor bestowed by the organization.

We have certainly been fortunate to have an individual like Mary working so hard, not only on behalf of our students, but for our teachers and our education system as well. For her many contributions and outstanding service, I am proud to stand today to join the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary Moninger-Elia for her lifetime of good work. Hers is a legacy that will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. D. James Kennedy and his supporters for their support of the Marriage Protection Amendment.

Dr. Kennedy is a well-known Christian television and radio broadcaster whose programs reach some three million people, weekly. Dr. Kennedy is President of Coral Ridge Ministries, a Christian broadcasting organization, founder and president of Evangelism Explosion, a Christian lay-evangelism training program used in every nation, and Senior Minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Kennedy is a respected and articulate advocate of the return to Christian moral standards in public life.

Dr. Kennedy's Center for Reclaiming America has collected the names of more than 430,000 petition signers who believe marriage is the union of a man and a woman, and they are opposed to efforts to redefine it. These 430,000 citizens from across the nation have petitioned Congress to pass the Marriage Protection Amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WEST ELK MOUNTAIN RESCUE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West Elk Mountain Rescue team, a dedicated group of people from my home district who risk their lives so that others might live. This 22 member rescue team is composed of dedicated men and women that volunteer using their own resources to equip themselves with the knowledge to find and rescue people in need. I want to take this opportunity to recognize their many years of service to their community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The WEMR was created in 1996 and works under the authority of the Gunnison County Sheriff's office. The team consists of mainly men and women, but also includes a five-year old golden retriever/labrador mix rescue dog who aides local and national law enforcement agencies. The human members of the team come from Crawford, Hotchkiss, Paonia, Cedaredge, and Eckert to cover a search area encompassing both Delta and Gunnison counties. Team members are certified and trained in CPR/First Aid, emergency medical technicians, avalanche rescue, water rescue, technical rock climbing skills, and general rescue. The group acquires many of its members from people who were once in need of the team's services.

Mr. Speaker, West Elk Mountain Rescue is a dedicated group of people who avail themselves to the community everyday of the year to provide search and rescue expertise to those in dire need. These brave men and women risk danger to their own lives and take time away from their families to serve others. Their dedication to their community is highly commendable and I am honored to recognize their service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an event that took place in my district. On Saturday, August 21, 2004, the Lake Fenton Community School District gathered to mark the official ribbon cutting and formal dedication of their newly constructed Lake Fenton High School. The celebration concluded on Sunday, August 22, 2004 with a non-denominational service and community open house.

Lake Fenton High School was first dedicated on May 19, 1961. With increasing enrollment and changing educational needs, the Lake Fenton Board of Education and the Lake Fenton Schools Support Services/Facilities Committee implemented plans to build a new high school. Their hard work and dedication resulted in three elective bond activities, and the final product is the first newly built facility within the Lake Fenton School District, and the

only new high school constructed within Genesee County in over 30 years. This is indeed an accomplishment worth commending.

The new high school boasts state of the art technology, computer and science labs, a media center, auditorium, gymnasium, and an outdoor athletic facility. The labs will allow the school to fully support their new program entitled "Project Lead the Way". This program introduces students to the demanding field of Engineering and Digital Electronics. As stated by their principal, Julie Clontz, Lake Fenton High School is trying to in every way possible to adjust their curriculum to meet the needs of the students and help prepare them for life after high school. The completion of this beautiful new facility and the implementation of these exciting educational programs is without a doubt a step in the right direction. Superintendent Ralph Coaster has provided excellent leadership in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it both my duty and privilege to work to improve the quality of our public school system. I am glad that communities such as Lake Fenton share this sentiment. They continue to work diligently to ensure students have the tools necessary to compete and succeed. I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating this fine community and its school district and in wishing them the very best in future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE RELIEF FOR LIFE-SAVING BLOOD DONORS ACT 2004

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Relief for Life-Saving Blood Donors Act, a bill to provide a tax deduction for the selfless act of donating blood.

Each year, more than 4.5 million Americans need a life-saving blood transfusion, and about 25 percent of all Americans will need a blood transfusion at least once in their life. This means that almost every American will come to know, through their own experience or through those of a friend or family member, the importance that the small act of blood donation can make. Indeed, a single blood donation can help as many as three people.

While 60 percent of Americans are eligible to give blood, only about 5 percent of that population, or about 8.8 million Americans, actually do. According to the American Association of Blood Banks, the average donor is a college-educated white male between the ages of 30 and 50, who is married and has an above average income. Nevertheless, blood donations are increasingly coming from women and minority groups, engendering greater participation at the community level by members who seek to develop a more solid sense of neighborhood unity.

America's blood supply is critical to our Nation's seniors. While those aged 69 years and older account for just 10 percent of the population, they require 50 percent of blood transfusions. This statistic will only increase with the aging of the Baby Boomer population, and the need for blood will be even greater.

While there is no current, nationwide shortage of blood, regional and local shortages do occur. It is not hard to imagine that a major national trauma, such as a terrorist attack, disease, or natural disaster, could strain the blood supply even further. Since blood cannot be manufactured, the system is reliant on people to donate their blood.

Mr. Speaker, donating blood is a small but entirely selfless act that does nothing but help those who need it most. Congress should support this endeavor, and encourage people to give blood as often as they can.

This legislation provides a \$50 tax deduction for individuals who donate blood, with a maximum deduction of \$150 a year. This maximum reflects the advice of blood bank centers and institutions that encourage people to give blood three times a year. This relief is a small reward for people who do give, and an encouragement for those who might need that extra little push to attend a blood drive.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and call on the House to bring it expeditiously to the floor.

HONORING DENNIS CONNER, A WORLD-RENOWNED SAILOR, ON HIS RESTORATION OF THE LEGENDARY YACHT "COTTON BLOSSOM II"

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I rise to commend to the Nation Dennis Conner, of America's Cup fame, an outstanding American yachtsman, competitor and sailing icon, in admiration and appreciation of his magnificent restoration of the historic wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*. Mr. Conner's expertise and dedication to preserving yachting history are to be commended. His extraordinary efforts are a testament to his uncompromising devotion to excellence and authenticity.

Thanks to Dennis Conner's vision and generosity, *Cotton Blossom II* is an elegantly restored masterpiece that honors our country's rich yachting heritage and the classic art of wooden boat building.

Cotton Blossom II was designed in 1924 by Johan Anker, the leading "Q" Boat designer of the time. She was built for Lawrence Percival of Boston at the Jensen Shipyard near Oslo, Norway. *Leonore*, as she was first named, was delivered to Marblehead in October 1925. She was later sold to Walter Wheeler and christened *Cotton Blossom II*. Wheeler campaigned her with great success out of Stamford, CT. Among her many racing victories were the Vineyard Race and the Astor Cup for the New York Yacht Club. She was named the NYYC Boat of the Year in 1939, and her half model is displayed in the Club's Model Room.

Twenty-three years later, this well-designed yacht continued to win major races under the stewardship of owners Ed and Gloria Turner of the San Diego Yacht Club. *Cotton Blossom II* successfully spanned the dramatic changes that had taken place in the sport since the 1920s as she became a familiar sight winning all the major races at the club, including the Lipton Trophy, and was named SDYC Boat of

the Year in 1963. Her half model is displayed in the club today.

As a young man and rising star in the sailing world, Dennis Conner sailed extensively on *Cotton Blossom II*. When he had the good fortune of acquiring *Cotton Blossom II*, Mr. Conner assembled a team of the finest craftsmen and shipbuilders to restore her with meticulous care to her original condition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the People's House join me in commending Dennis Conner and his talented team of skilled craftsmen for preserving U.S. maritime history with the restoration of the legendary wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR HAROLD L. CASKEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, a long and distinguished career in public service is coming to an end in the Show-Me State. Missouri State Senator Harold L. Caskey will retire at the end of the year. He has served the people of the 31st District since 1976.

He was born in Bates County. After graduating from Central Missouri State University with honors in 1960 with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology, he attended University of Missouri-Columbia where he received a Juris Doctorate in 1963. He also was a member of the Order of the Coif.

From 1968 to 1972, Mr. Caskey served as the prosecuting attorney for Bates County. Then he was the Butler city prosecutor from 1973 to 1974. After serving in this position, he was an assistant professor in Business Law and Criminal Law at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, from 1975 to 1976.

Mr. Caskey was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 1976. During his accomplished tenure in the Missouri Senate, he served in many positions. He was the Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Senate Majority Caucus Chair, Senate Majority Floor Leader, and Minority Caucus Chair.

Mr. Caskey awards and honors include the 2002 Access Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, the 1997 National Legislator of the Year from the National Industries of the Blind Workshop, the 1999 University of Missouri School of Law Alumnus of the Year and the National Freedom Righter from the National Rifle Association. Additionally, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association named an award for him—the Harold Caskey Freedom Award.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this House will join me in thanking Mr. Caskey for his life of public service.

HONORING THE SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend George Lardas, members of the congregation, and the Stratford, CT, community in extending my sincere congratulations to the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church as they celebrate its 75th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

The St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was founded in 1929 by Russian emigres who came to Stratford to work for Igor Sikorsky. The legendary Igor Sikorsky, the father of the modern helicopter, was a founding member of the church as well as one of its staunchest supporters throughout his life. With nearly all the members employees of Sikorsky's company, a Russian community quickly grew around the church. Soon, what began as a neighborhood church in a Lake Street home moved to its present location and today welcomes congregants from several surrounding communities as well. The striking golden cupolas of the church, a unique characteristic of the building, along with the warm and welcoming arms of the congregation have made St. Nicholas a lasting landmark in Stratford.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, St. Nicholas gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of St. Nicholas' have also given much to the town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

It is with great pride and my heart-felt congratulations that I rise today to join with the congregation and the Stratford community in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church—a true community treasure.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to submit into the RECORD additional material regarding the debate about whether marriage is in decline in the Netherlands. Some members suggest that the Stanley Kurtz material is not relevant or is not accurate. I submit into the RECORD the following article written by Mr. Kurtz that addresses his critics on this point.

DUTCH DEBATE

There's a new development in the story of Europe's marriage meltdown. Recently, a